

To

The Members of the Leiston cum Sizewell Urban District Council

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Gentlemen,

I have the honour, as your Medical Officer of Health, of presenting my report on the general health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1907.

PUBLIC HEALTH: The general health of the district continues satisfactory. the death rate exactly equals the average for the last 9 years. This I consider is good, considering the large amount of work of an arduous nature performed by many individual members of the population. The rate also compares very favorably with the other Urban Districts of East Suffolk.

The Birth rate on the contrary again shows a big drop: the infant mortality is also high - thus we are, on the one hand producing less yearly, and on the other the consumption increases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE: There have been an increase in the notifications under the Infectious Diseases Act, viz: 20 as against 7 and 8 for the last 2 years respectively. Seventeen referred to Scarlet Fever and occurred in 9 houses - fourteen being notified in the first quarter and the other three in September and November.

I could discover no point of origin of either batch of cases, but I think it very probable that infection may be brought into the place from outside, for instance, by some of the younger men employed on the Works, who, living in lodgings, make it a practice to go to their own homes for week ends.

The seventeen cases of the first batch were all more or less traceable to one another. The type was a virulent one, fortunately rare, and representing a mixed infection of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Three of these terminated fatally.

I think it a matter for congratulation that we did not have a more wide spread epidemic.

Of the 3 remaining cases two were erysipelas and one typhoid: the latter imported.





MORTALITY: The death rate is 11.3 per 1000: in 1906 it was 12.9 or corrected 11.1. The average for the last nine years is 11.2. The number of deaths 48.

Of the causes of death

3. Scarlet Fever - have been alluded to.
11. Various acute lung diseases complicating influenza in two cases.
5. Apoplexy.
4. Old Age.
7. Tuberculosis or Consumption.
11. Infants under one year.

Consumption caused 7 deaths: in both 1905 & 6 there were 6 deaths attributed to this disease, and this is about the average for the whole human race, i.e. 1/7th of all deaths are due to Tuberculosis. Considering that Tuberculosis is an infectious disease and preventible and responsible for so many deaths, I think the time is bound to come when the notification of consumption must be compulsory, instead of optional as at present. By this means the presence of the disease will be known and precaution to prevent its spread taken, and also that all advanced cases should be segregated and treated in special institutions as far as possible: they are a source of very serious risk in their own houses.

This sounds very drastic and hard, but "the minority must suffer for the majority".

The Death Rate for 1906: England & Wales: 15.4. Aldboro: 11.2  
Saxmundham: 10.01. East Suffolk: 14.25. Leiston: 11.3. (1907)

Infant Mortality is much too high, viz:- 127.9 per 1000 births registered - the actual number being 11.

Of these 11, four were weekly from birth, two were due to acute lung disease, one aged 3 weeks to appendicitis and three to diarrhoea.

The deaths from diarrhoea in infants are the most important from a public health point of view because it is often caused by improper food or milk, or milk contaminated by flies. The common house fly is a carrier of disease and in this respect a pest on a par with the





MORTALITY (cont-d):      rat - both need to be destroyed.

Two of these eleven deaths were illegitimates.

BIRTHS:      86 Births registered.      In 1906: 90, and in 1905: 96.

The Birth rate 20.6 per 1000 shows a substantial decline, the average for the last 9 years being 24.8.      In 1897 the rate was 31.3 and in 1898 26.1.      Since 1897 there has been a steady gradual decline in the Birth rate, this should not be so in a place like Leiston where there are so many young able-bodied married couples.      Birth rate for East Suffolk 1906: 24.18, and for England and Wales 27.

MARRIAGES:      20      .      1906: 18.      1905: 28.      Rate 4.8 1907

POPULATION:      At 1901 Census: 3251.      At end of 1906: 4048.      During 1907 there has been a gain of 184 new comers over removals and 38 by births over deaths making a total at the end of 1907 of 4270, and I think this is underestimated rather than the reverse.

NEW HOUSES:      Built and occupied: 23.      In the last four years 100 new houses have been built and more are now in process of building.      There is still a large and unsatisfied demand for houses.

DRAINAGE:      Very few houses remain unconnected with the sewer and some of these are about to be connected.      Grimsey Road, the only road not sewered last year, has been taken in hand and finished.

The disposal of sewage is by means of a Septic Tank the effluent from which is carried over an irrigation area subsequently discharging into a stream.      The Tank works well, but the irrigation area needs more attention.      The cross pipes which should convey the water from the ditches to the central discharge pipe get blocked leading to flooding.

WATER SUPPLY:      has been sufficient and the analysis is satisfactory.      There are now very few houses which have not the water laid on.





HOUSE ACCOMMODATION: The class of houses in the town are very good providing abundance of light and air, but I am of opinion that all bedrooms should be provided with either an open fireplace or, what is not so good, a ventilating shaft. Too often, for the sake of economy only one out of three bedrooms is provided with a fireplace. Some of the new houses have bathrooms and water closets, an improvement I should like to see embodied in all new houses.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL: Very largely by the pail system the old pit Closets having practically disappeared. Complaint is made from time to time of the smell arising from the Sanitary cart when removing the contents of the pails in the early morning. I can testify to this myself from personal experience. Nevertheless the cart must go round at this time. The remedy consists in the supply and use of sufficient dry earth which is an excellent deodorant, and in this way the smell would be reduced to a minimum, as now carried out in the majority of cases no attempt is made to keep the contents of the pails dry. The system could only be made to work if the Council undertook the supply of dry earth, of which clay, marl and vegetable humus are suitable & sand useless. The amount of such earth required, viz:  $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb per head per day practically makes the scheme impossible of accomplishment.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE: Undertaken by contract on behalf of the Council. There have been some complaints that the receptacles have not been emptied with sufficient frequency.

BYE-LAWS & NUISANCES: I think the general sanitary condition of the district has been very good. There have been fewer complaints of nuisances this year, the wet summer has been perhaps less conducive to smells. There have been no prosecutions.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS: These bye-laws are not in force in the district.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES: There have been no complaints respecting the five slaughter houses licensed by the Council.





COW SHEDS & MILK SHOPS: The Cow Sheds in the district are kept in

some instances very well, others might be cleaner particularly as regards the floors, clean straw is used more frequently than formerly but under the straw the floors are not clean. I think that the straw should be renewed every day and the floors well scrubbed down with plenty of clean water. I find that the udders of the cows are washed before the milking process commences.

With respect to the cows themselves. There is strong evidence to support the theory that there are two classes of tuberculosis in human beings (1) the human type caused by the human bacillus and (2) the bovine type caused by the bacillus of the cow. The first nearly always affects the adult and is caused by the inhalation of bacilli in dust &c. the second affects the children and is caused by tubercular meat and milk.

The report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis demonstrated clearly the close connection between Cows milk and tuberculosis in children. There are in England upwards of 560,000 tuberculosis cows and nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  millions in the United Kingdom. 20,000 cows have tuberculosis of the udders. Something like 100,000 qts. of infected milk are daily consumed in the United Kingdom.

How are these disease-spreading animals to be dealt with ?

(1) The 20,000 cows with tuberculous udders should be slaughtered at once.

(2) The compulsory and universal application of the tuberculin test should be insisted on and fair compensation paid by the State for animals slaughtered. In 1865-6, 233,000 head of cattle were slaughtered or died as a result of an invasion of cattle plague, and if the Government would only find the money these tubercular cows could be dealt with in the same way. "It is estimated that the disease in animals could be eliminated in a single year".

Properly qualified inspectors are much needed to make regular periodical inspections of the sources of our milk supply and the money





COW. SHEDS & MILK SHOPS (cont'd):      should be forthcoming for such  
a necessary protection of the public health of this Country.

Under sect. 13 of the Education (administrative provisions) Act 1907 which came into force January 1st 1908 it is provided that (1) power is given to Local Government Authorities to provide for the health and physical condition of the children in elementary schools and (2) the duty is laid on the Local Education Authorities of the Medical Inspection of Children.

In a memorandum circulated by the Board of Education it is stated "Where no County Medical Officer has been appointed under the Local Government Act 1888, it would seem that the new duties in regard to the Medical Inspection of Children now imposed on the County Councils will render it inadvisable any longer to postpone such appointments." The East Suffolk County Council have no County Medical Officer. I am of opinion that the interests of the Public Health would be better served by a County Medical Officer of Health rather than District Medical Officers of Health apart from the question of the Medical Inspection of Children.

There is also a new act of 1907 providing for the notification of all births within a certain time of the birth occurring.

To make the inspection of school children and the notification of births acts fulfil the objects for which they are intended the further inspection of the houses and instruction of the parents are absolutely essential.

The East Suffolk County Education Committee have informed me that they do not consider it necessary to close Schools on account of Measles.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE:      There is no Isolation Hospital within the district and none accessible outside the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

27 January  
Leiston

Herbert M. Llewellyn  
Moff.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

TO THE HONORABLE SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOMMENDING TO THE SENATE  
THE APPOINTMENT OF DR. J. H. VAN VAN NEST  
TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY  
AND TO THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PHYSICS

DR. J. H. VAN VAN NEST is a native-born American  
and was born on the 15th of January, 1892, at  
Chicago, Illinois. He received his Bachelor's  
degree from the University of Chicago in 1914,  
and his Master's degree in 1915. He then  
went to the University of California at Berkeley,  
where he received his Ph.D. degree in 1917.  
He has since that time been engaged in  
research in the field of physical chemistry,  
and has published a number of papers in this  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
DIVISION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES  
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

1917, Jan. 15  
J. H. Van Van Nest  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
and Assistant Professor of Physics



FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT 1901 as far as it applies to  
this district.

A. FACTORIES: 1. Messrs Richard Garrett & Sons Ltd. Ironworks.

a. Safety from fire. The means of escape in case of fire are adequate. The Firm maintain a steam fire engine manned by the employees.

b. Homework: None.

c. Closet accommodation: Adequate.

2. Morling & Co. Printers. Conditions satisfactory.

B. DOMESTIC FACTORIES: None.

C. WORKSHOPS: 1. Dressmaking Workshops. Conditions satisfactory. No overcrowding. Sanitary conditions adequate. No home work.

TENEMENT WORKSHOPS: None.

2. Bake Houses. There have been no faults to find with the Bake Houses.

3. Laundries: None.

4. Domestic Workshops: None.

5. Stable yards Sanitary accommodation adequate.

Home work: One only known. Employed by Mr Allen Smyth, Upholsterer. Work: Carpet repairing. Conditions satisfactory.

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